

THIS kinky couple love nothing better than throwing private parties where people walk around naked. And there were several famous faces who turned up to the last one – including a well-known model and soccer star. As well as indulging in a light bit of bondage, guests also participate in the reverse of strip poker.

And we thought they were such an innocent pair.

# YULE BE OK BRIT, HONEST

IT'S no wonder Britney is

IT'S no wonder Britney is having a nail-biting time. Nervous-looking Brit, pictured left with husband **Kevin Federline**, is said to be "stunned" after his ex and mum of his two children **Shar** Jackson, snubbed a Christmas Day invite

invite.

An insider said: "Britney had offered to lay on a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, but Shar turned her down, explaining she's got other plans for herself and the kids."

Britney, 23, will spend the day with Kevin, 26, her mum Lynne, 46, and sister in Malibu, California."

# Bust wishes to you, Chris

WE hope Christina Aguilera invested in some good quality boob tape when she went out to celebrate her 24th birthday. The revealed her more-than-ample cleavage at Hollywood's Spider Bar. The sexy blonde – who is looking more and more like a gangster's moil – partied with her boyfriend Jordan Bratman, 25, and a legion of lusty lads. And Aguile got the shock of her life when two male strippers took their kit two male strippers took their kit off. But we're sure she handled the situation...

# IT'S ORL WRONG MATE

# SPOTTED

IN London: Ricky Gervais
laughing with pals in Soho House,
Patsy Kensit boarding a Leeds-bound
flight at London City and David Walliams
buying bottled water in Fresh & Wild,
Camden. Delta Goodrem purchasing a
box of biscuits in Harrods, Craig David
walking down Oxford Street listening to
music and EastEnders studmurfiin
Joe Swash with two pals in
Toast, Hampstead.



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### Ulrika in book bar

TV BABE Ulrika Jonsson has admitted she tried to stop her husband reading her autobiography. And Lance Gerrard-

And Lance Gerrard-Wright, 35, says he found it tough seeing details of her affair with England boss Sven Goran Eriksson. Ulrika, 36, said: "I asked Lance not to read the book – but I went away for a few days and he said: 'I've read it."

The couple, who met on TV show Mr Right, tell all on The Keith Barret Show Christmas Special on

Christmas Special on BBC2 at 10pm tonight.

### 'Terror' 4 are held

FOUR men have been arrested for allegedly plotting to set up a terror-ist base on the holiday isle of Lanzarote. They were being questioned yesterday by Spanish intelligence

spanish intelligence
officers in Madrid.
One of the four is the
leader of a mosque.
The other three are
alleged to be members of
the Moroccan Islamic Combatants' Group which was blamed for the bombing of trains in Madrid in March.



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# **Idols' glum do as rivals get fancy**

**■** by PAUL MALLEY

MANCHESTER City scored a win over their Old Trafford rivals yesterday – in the Christmas parties league.

Manchester United aces arrived at their bash in the city's trendy Prohibition Bar on Saturday night looking short of festive spirit.

short of festive spirit.
Dressed in dull casual
clothes, 19-year-old Wayne
Rooney and pals seemed
more like they were off to
a funeral – despite earlier
beating Crystal Palace 5-2.
Meanwhile, players from
the blue half of the city
showed them how to party
in style hy arriving at the

in style by arriving at the swanky Lowry Hotel in fancy dress.

### Disco

Irish duo Richard Dunne, 25, and Willo Flood, 19, stole the show as Batman

stole the show as Batman and Robin.

But they were given a run for their money by England hot-shot Shaun Wright-Phillips, 23, as Bob Marley, 22-year-old midfielder Joey Barton as a mullet-haired DJ and French defender Sylvain Distin, 27, in seventies disco kit.

One onlooker said: "They

One onlooker said: "They looked really up for it. Their 1-0 win over Bolton must have done the trick.

"The costumes were excellent, although David James's sheikh outfit was James's s a bit naff.







Aside from it's remarkable price, one of the best features of this Bellman Power Caddy is its size when folded - just 57cm wide by 34cm deep by 57.5cm high (22.4 fins x 13.3 lins x 22.6 ins) and, it takes under a minute to set up once you've unloaded it from the car boot! Built from lightweight but robust aluminium and weighing less than 16kgs (34lbs) including battery pack, the Bellman Power Caddy is easy to transport and the powerful 12V motor will make light work of hilly courses. The variable accelerator provides for a smooth start as well as the ability to set the speed to your walking pace (max speed 6km/h). The charging time for the battery (battery charger included) is between six and eight hours which should give you around 20 kilometres (12 miles) of use. Other features include a waterproof scorecard holder, pen holder, slots for two

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BLAZING: Superstar Brad

UK ALBUMS

**TOP 40 ALBUMS** 

(2) GREATEST HITS Robbie Willia

1 (2) GREATEST HITS HODDS WINDLESS
2 (3) IL DIVO II DIVO
3 (1) HOW TO DISMANTLE AN ATOMIC BOMB U2
4 (4) ULTIMATE KYLIE Kylie Minogue 5 (6) 10 YEARS OF HITS Ronan Keating 6 (7) SONGS ABOUT JANE Maroon 5 7 (11) SCISSOR SISTERS
Scissor Sisters

11 (8) GREATEST HITS Shania Twain
12 (15) AMERICAN IDIOT Green Day
13 (9) WHAT WILL THE NEIGHBOURS SAY

14 (14) TIME TO GROW Lemar 15 (18) UNWRITTEN Natasha Bedingfield 16 (19) DESTINY FULFILLED 17(13) GREATEST HITS - MY
PREPOCATIVE

17(13) GREATEST HITS – MY
PREROGATIVE Britiney Spears
18 (26) LOVE SONGS Phil Collins
19 (16) BEST OF Blue
20 (17) LIVE – A TICKET FOR
EVERYONE Busted
21 (22) ANASTACIA Anastacia
22 (20) MIND BODY & SOUL JOSS Stone
23 (21) PLATINUM COLLECTION Genesis
4 (23) BINGLES TRAVIS

23 (21) PLATING 22
24 (23) SINGLES Travis
25 (25) ALL THE BEST Tina Turner
26 (26) CALL OFF THE SEARCH
Katle Melua 27 (24) ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR

28 (32) THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM Aled Jones
29 (28) STARDUST – THE GREAT

Jamie Cu 31 (35) LOVE ANGEL MUSIC BABY

34 (31) THE GREATEST HITS
Wet Wet Wet

35 (-) HOT FUSS Killers 36 (37) WHO KILLED THE ZUTONS

AMERICAN R 30 (29) TWENTYSOMETHING

32 (30) FINAL STRAW 33 (33) SECOND NATURE

37 (-) THANK YOU 38 (34) CONFESSIONS 39 (36) NUMBER ONES 40 (-) O

8(10) HOPES AND FEARS 9 (12) ALLOW US TO BE FRANK

10 (5) ENCORE 11 (8) GREATEST HITS 12 (15) AMERICAN IDIOT

Scissor Sisters

Eminem

Girls Aloud

Britney Spears Phil Collins

Anastacia

McFly

Rod Stewart

Gwen Stefani Snow Patrol

mie Cullum

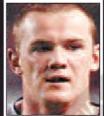
Zutons

Jamelia Usher Bee Gees Damien Rice

THERE was red-hot news for Hollywood hunk Brad Pitt – but not the kind he likes. He had to run from a fire at the London hotel where he was planning to hold a press junket for his latest film Ocean's 12. Corrie star Nikki Sanderson also made the wrong kind of headlines when she was spotted stumbling out of the Street's Christmas party.

Our OK Celebrity Chart is based on stars' coverage in Express newspapers – your Daily Star, our sister papers the Daily Express and Sunday Express – and OKI, Britain's best celebrity magazine. It's THE guide to who's hot and who's not that's got everyone talking.

## THE OK ! CELEBRITY



GIFTS: Wayne's bonanza

6) STEVE BROOKSTEIN: The X Factor finalist is accused of stalking his ex-

girlfriend.

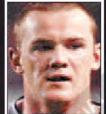
7) NIKKI SANDERSON: The sex siren is seen stumbling out of Corrie's Christmas bash.

8) SUZANNE SHAW: The ex-Hear'Say singer and Darren Day celebrate their son's birth.

9) SHARON OSBOURNE: Her son Jack begs her not to do another series of X Factor.

10) GERI HALLIWELL: The star is rude to guests at a charity ball in London.

1) WAYNE ROONEY: The England star's girl Coleen McLoughlin runs up a £50,000 bill for Christmas presents.
2) VICTORIA BECKHAM:
The mum-to-be has talks about posing naked for a mag.
3) CHARLOTTE CHURCH:
The singer enjoys a 48-hour drinking session with boytriend Kyle Johnson 4) BRAD PITT: The 41-year-old Hollywood star flees from a fire at a London hotel.
5) GIRLS ALOUD: Nicola Roberts, Nadine Coyle, Cheryl Tweedy, Kimberley Walsh and Sarah Harding meet Prince Charles at the Royal Variety Performance. Performance.



### **TOP 40** SINGLES

1 (1) DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS Band Aid 20 2 (-) FATHER AND SON Ronan Keating 2 (-) FATHER AND SON 3 (2) I BELIEVE IN YOU 4 (3) YOU CAN DO IT Kylie Minogue

4 (3) YOU CAN DO IT

Lee Cube ft Mack &Ms Toi

5 (-) I GOT YOU BABE/SODA POP

Merrion/McCall/Kensit

6 (4) LOSE MY BREATH Destiny's Child

7 (7) IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE Lemar

8 (7) BOULEVARD OF BROKEN

DREAMS

9 (5) I'LL STAND BY YOU Girls Aloud

10 (-) I HAVE FORGIVEN JESUS Morrissey

11 (9) UNWRITTEN NAtasha Bedingfield

12 (10) WHAT YOU WAITING FOR

Gwen Stefani

Gwen Stefani Gwen Stefani

13 (-) I CANNOT GIVE YOU MY LOVE Cliff Richard

14(11)TILT YA HEAD BACK
Nelly & Christina Aguilera
15(13) OUT OF TOUCH Uniting Nations
16(12) DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT

16 (12) DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT
Snoop Dogg ft Pharrell
17 (14) JUST LOSE IT
Eminem
18 (8) MISUNDERSTOOD Robbie Williams

# UKSINGLES



19 (19) NUMB/ENCORE Jay-Z & Linkin Park 20 (17) CAR WASH Christina Aguilera ft Missy 21 (-) RADIO GAGA Electric Six

22 (-) YOU KNOWS I LOVES YOU BABY VERTIGO

23(22) VERTIGO U24(23) CALL ON ME Eric Prydz
25(16) IRISH SON Brian McFadden
26(15) OBSESSION (SI ES AMOR)
3rd Wish
27 (-) THE BLOWER'S DAUGHTER

Damien Rice 100 Percent JUST CAN'T WAIT RIDE IT GERI Innocent DJ/STOP CONFESSIONS PART II Jamelia Usher CONFESSIONS PART II
THE WEEKEND Micha
KILAMANGIRO Babysh
BABY IT'S YOU Jojo ft Bo
ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR
ALWAYS BLINK
CONFUSION
DO THE CAN CAN
SUNDAY MORNING
CURTAIN FALLS Michael Gray Babyshambles Jojo ft Bow Wow

ojo ft Bow Wow FLOOR McFly 182 Zutons Skandi Girls Maroon 5

# **Charts GIPSY: I'VE**

he is "allergic" to houses has been allowed to move his caravan on to beauty spot.

The decision has out-The decision has out-raged people living near Henry Smith's two-acre plot of greenbelt land. They are convinced the one-bedroom caravan will

be a blot on the landscape

A Government inspector overturned a council ban after hearing the labourer suffered from an "aversion

to bricks and mortar". Mr to bricks and mortar". Mr Smith, 20, said: "I'm used to living in the open air. Being in a house makes me claustrophobic. "It's what you have been

brought up with and what you are used to."

### **Evicted**

Mr Smith, his 19-year-old pregnant wife and their 18-month-old son, had been evicted from the site which they own in Betchworth, Surrey, after living there without permission.



VICTORY: Henry Smith

### Girl cop's stab terror

A MAN has been charged with attempted murder after a police officer was

attacked with a knife.
The officer, in her late
20s, was saved by body
armour during the incident
in Castleford, West Yorks. A 20-year-old man will appear before Pontefract magistrates today.

### Hammy's home safe

THE Queen's Brickyard
Wood on the Isle of Wight
has been saved from
developers.
The location inspired
kids' TV favourite Tales Of
The Riverbank starring
Hammyr the hamster.

Hammy the hamster.
Author Dave Ellison led protests.



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## na's Claus are out



# Brave Dan reliving his crash h



returned to the site of his near-fatal car crash to reflect on life and inspire himself for his 2005 live tour.

**Bedingfield** 

I can reveal that brave Dan, 25, plans to spend Christmas in his New Zealand homeland, despite cheating death there less than 12 months ago. A source said: "This year has been one of the biggest for Daniel.

the biggest for Daniel.

"He overcame a broken neck and managed to write, record and promote a new album, a lot of hard work which some people might have shied away from.

"He's really proud of what he's achieved

and sees going home as a chance to look back and really take in all that has happened.
"The year has passed so quickly and he hasn't really stopped to take stock."
Daniel broke two bones in his neck in January when the Jeep he was driving flipped near Whangarei.
The star will never make a full recovery but he remains unpeat despite being

The star will never make a full recovery but he remains upbeat, despite being told that he will have to continue with physiotherapy for life.

The singer, who shot to the top of the charts with debut single, Gotta Get Thru This, has also told of suffering a fuzzy head, which he worried would affect his songwriting capabilities.

Against the odds, and while sister Natasha, 22, was storming the charts in

was storming the charts in her own right, Daniel made a comeback with November's Second First Impression.

### Energy

My source continued:
"Since Daniel came out of
hospital he hasn't stopped
working.
"He wants to put all his
energy into his 2005.
"By going back to New
Zealand and facing up to
what happened he can
move on to the New Year
and be inspired to put
together his best shows
yet."
After witnessing a

yeř."

After witnessing a special fans-only gig for Capital radio last month, I reckon Daniel's tour, which gets under way in Nottingham on March 8, will be a must-see.

His next single, Wrap My Words Around You, is a proper cracker too.



ROOSTER frontman Nick Atkinson has thanked Hot for getting Jentina off his back.

The rocker was under the The rocker was unuer and impression the gipsy rappe wanted him flat on his, so she could have her wicked way with him.

way with him.

Nick, 24, told me in

October that Jentina had
invited him back to her tour
bus when they met at CD:uk
but he wasn't interested.

but he wasn't interested.
He explained: "I have not heard hide nor hair of that young lady since your story. She's left me alone thank God. She's a very nice girl but... no." but... no.

As you can see from my photo Jentina, 19, is very

photo Jentina, 19, is very indeed.
She's been canoodling with the Prodigy's Keith Flint for nearly two years and hit back at Nick's claims saying he "needs a good kick in the bollocks"





# **Stefani's sad songs**

GWEN Stefani says personal nightmares give her the best material to write great songs. Gwen, who's taken time out from No Doubt to go solo, was shocked when husband, Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale, 37, was revealed to have a secret lovechild.

But she's tackling trauma

head-on by scribbling tunes. Gwen, 35, said: "My songs are my diaries and some of my best ones have come out of times when I've been going through a personal night-mare"

mare."
My picture shows her vamping it up Marilyn Monroe style in the new film The Aviator.

# Moz mistletoe n' whine

sition. viewryone's gran loves a of Sir Cliff, 64, with the leen's Speech and a pp of sherry. On the same Steven Patrick here. I am right d you knows it. cometimes it hurts, it alliv does.



RAPPER

Xzibit offered punters at a London nightclub the chance to win a
bling car – before driving off
in it. The star was at the
Blaupunkt party at Cirque on
Saturday night, where clubbers
could throw dice to win the
motor. No-one got the lucky
number and he was clearly
in a hurry to pimp
someone else's
ride.



SHANE Richie, left, is taking tips from punk band Hypo Psycho after news that Simon Cowell offered

him an album deal.
Richie, 40, said he'd
rush out and buy their
new single, Bored. But,
like cast mate Leslie Grantham, I hope he has internet access – the track is only avail-able as a download.

# new single





### STEVE BROOKSTEIN - AGAINST ALL ODDS

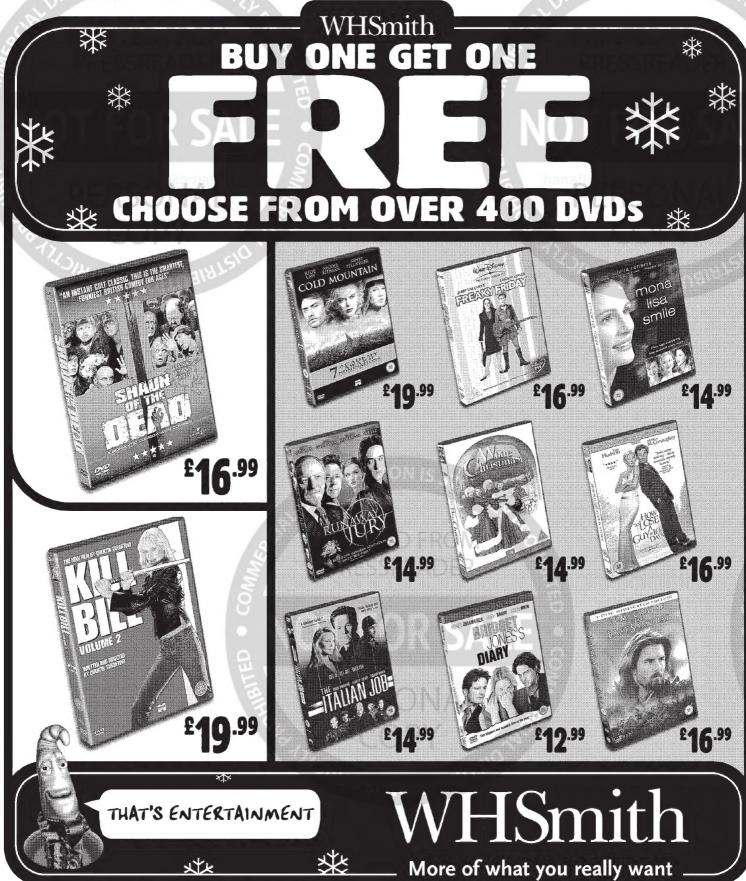
The X Factor winner Steve Brookstein releases his amazing debut single, a cover of Phil Collins' Against All Odds. This much anticipated release also features live tracks from the X Factor show including Smile and Help Me Make It Through The Night.

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THIS is the catfight on a factory roof that sees crazed Karen McDonald plunge out of Coronation Street.

Coronation Street.
In a Christmas Day cliffhanger, fans will watch
tormented Karen go on the
rampage after losing the
baby she'd been longing for. She snatches love rival

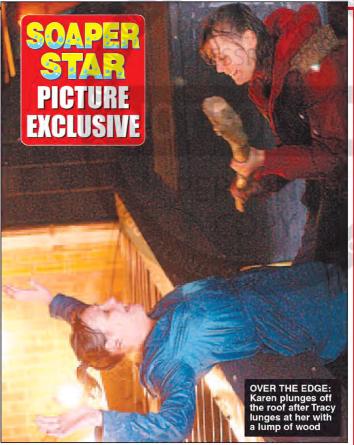
**■** by JOHN MAHONEY

Tracy Barlow's daughter Amy and takes her on a terror trip before torching the motor which husband Steve won on a TV show.

Tracy, played by Kate Ford, 28, eventually confronts Karen on the roof of Mike Baldwin's factory.

And as Tracy lashes out with a wooden stake, Karen plunges over the edge.

It's a spectacular end for Karen – played by Suranne Jones, 25, who is leaving the ITV soap.
An insider said: "They are explosive scenes. Tracy is prepared to kill Karen if that's what it takes."



TV BABE SARAH'S A REAL ICE QUEEN: PAGE 26



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THREE children were fighting for their lives last night after a holiday road crash that killed their dad, aunt and uncle.

Tony Cole, seven, and his sisters Phoebe, nine, and Faith, five, were crit-ically injured in the Florida tragedy. Their father Simeon Cole, 41, died in



CRASH HELL: Phoebe, Chloe and Faith

**■** by PAUL MALLEY

hospital. Driver Charles Babson, 40, and his 41-year-old wife Dawn of Mitcham, Surrey, died instantly when their hired people carrier collided with a fuel tanker. The Babsons' nine-year-old son Robert escaped serious injury. Mr Cole's wife Denise and young daugh-ter Chles were also on the family boliday.

Mr Cole's where also on the family holiday which had begun just 24 hours earlier. But they had not joined the Saturday trip to buy food at a grocery store. Yesterday, the mum and her child were being comforted by British consulate staff.

### Missed

The crash happened on a main highway in Polk County, near Orlando.

A Florida police spokesman said Mr Babson, an IT expert, had missed the exit for the store and had tried to turn.

But the people carrier was caught in the tanker's path. The US driver was unhurt. The Coles' nanny Anja Strelkova, 20, said at their home in Dagenham, Essex, yesterday: "I cannot believe what has happened. This is so sad.

"They are a lovely family and were so happy to be going to America. I cannot imagine how it will be for the family now."



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## Not another bird, Becks

DAVID BECKHAM gave this mystery brunette a kiss on the cheek as he arrived at Real Madrid's Bernabeu stadium at the weekend. But don't worry, Posh—she just works for the Spanish giants.

Becks had just returned from a 24-hour break in Venice, Italy, with pregnant wife Victoria, 30.

Which is probably why the England skipper, 29, looked so relaxed as he chatted with the pretty staff member before heading into the stadium.



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TOP SPOT: Bob Geldof

## Crimbo No.1 is a curse

HAVING a Christmas No.1 is a curse, say pop experts.
And they reckon current acts can thank Bob Geldof for sewing up this year's top spot with Band Aid 20.

Stars who have come a Crimbo cropper include: Whitney Houston, who had her last No.1 at Christmas 1992 with I

will Always Love You.

East 17, who split after their biggest hit Stay Another Day in 1994.

Michael Jackson, who fell from grace

who fell from grace after Earth Song in 1995. The Spice Girls, who broke up after aptly-named Goodbye in 1998. Even Slade said 1973's Merry Xmas Everybody hindered their career

### Thrived

Head of the National Institute for Popular Music Mike Jones said of Music Mike Jones said of the Christmas curse: "It's a real phenomenon. That's why a lot of acts don't do Christmas songs now." The exception is Sir Cliff Richard who has thrived

with three No.1 hits –
Mistletoe and Wine in
1988, Saviour's Day in 1990
and Millennium Prayer.
New charts: Page 15

who started an American football team of teenage killers.

### **Breast** in class

SCHOOL leavers are to study for qualifications in

Students will face 30 hours of training and exams to achieve a BTEC in Lingerie Fitting. High street bosses say

many women don't know how to buy the right bra and most staff haven't a clue how to help.

The specialist course The specialist course is the brainchild of Debenhams head of development Michelle Wallace. She said: "We want our staff to have a more rounded knowledge. Bra-fitting is a rowe sortions and

is a very serious and specialist area. It takes a special sort of skill and is nothing to snigger about."

### **40 UP FOR CROOK**

A BURGLAR shot by farmer Tony Martin has notched up his 40th conviction. But Brendon Fearon, 34, failed to appear at Newark, Notts, to answer motoring charges





# Get REDD for Xmas

IF you want to sizzling this Christmas, you'd better slip into a red-hot number.
It's the colour all the sexiest stars

are sporting as they glam it up in sensational style.

That little black dress has certainly been banished to the back of the wardrobe this year. And one look at these scarlet women is

enough to tell you why. Flame red is the colour that glows with confidence and



Amy Nuttall's flaming locks match her dress

always sets pulses racing – as well as those cameras flashing. So if you really want to flaunt it, copy the looks of these gorgeous girls and flash the flesh in red for

that festive bash.
It's the traditional colour for
Christmas, after all. But Santa
suits never looked anywhere near as sexy as these eye-popping outfits.



Kaplinski looks red-hot on the red carpet



DOWN TO A T: Actress Jodi Albert looks a treat in her thigh-skimming mini and crisp white charity T-shirt



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# off Heist

# NICKED

T'S the crime of the century. The big job they all said couldn't be done.

A bunch of chancers from Channel 4 have nicked a cool couple of million viewers from right under the noses of the BBC and ITV. Sweet.

Last week, it was reported that the audience share for each of the main three channels had fallen to an all-time low.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 and their partners in crime at Five were having it away on their toes with a big fat slice of the action. Cushty.

### Target

The key to Four's success has been reality shows with a twist, such as Faking It and Wife Swap, which have now been joined by the brilliantly conceived and cleverly executed crime caper The Heist (Tuesdays).

The Heist (Tuesdays). Each week, five former villains who are now going straight meet to plan and carry out a robbery. For the first show in the series, it was lifting a valuable painting from an exhibition. No problem. Their latest target we a million.

Their latest target was a million pound car – a prototype of the new TVR – which the gang



hijacked when it was transported to a former Air Force base in Suffolk, where it was to be stored before being tested the next day.

for Channel 4

before being tested the next day.
Terry Smith, a retired armed
robber who has rapidly become
the star of the show, set up a fake
security hut and barrier and
roped in a muscular minder who looked like the third Mitchell brother to pose as a guard.

Computer hacker Matthew Bevan conce accused of breaking into the systems of NATO, NASA and the Pentagon planted a tracking device in the lorry that was carry-ing the car. Everything depended on luring the driver out of his cab, on the pretact of a call from his base.

pretext of a call from his boss.

"We're not allowed to use violence or threats of violence in any of these shows" explained Terry. "Which is a bit to yo MA very merry Christmas to you all. Keep those letters and e-mails of a gutter for me, because that was really my forte."

It all went like clockwork and the

car was soon on a ferry to Belgium. What's missing from
The Heist is a glamorous
femme fatale on the team, who
two of them could squabble over. Unfortunately, they're all ugly

Also, they haven't fallen out and had a fight yet. But apart from these minor quibbles, it's a better drama than most. Elsewhere on

Four, the final curtain for Peep Show and the last leg of Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere has opened up a yawning chasm on Friday nights. Max and Paddy's life-threatening encounter with Billy "The Butcher" Shamnon was a bit disappointing.

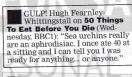
But the pay-off as the closs.

But the pay-off as the closing titles rolled was a classic: "You might be my best friend, Paddy, but I'm not sucking a bul-

let out of your a\*se."
On Peep Show,
Nancy married loser
Jez so that she could wangle herself a visa to stay in the country. It fell to Jez's rep

ressed flatmate Mark to deliver a typically inept speech. "In ancient Rome, they had Cupid" said Mark. "In mod-ern days, it's the Home Office. Love is blind."

Amid gales of laughter, he added: "That's not a joke about David Blunkett..."



IF curvy Kerry Katona wasn't depressed before she went on Stars in Their Eyes Celebrity Christmas Special (Saturday, ITV1), she should have been by the time it was all over.
Her hip-swinging, lip-wobbling Marilyn Monroe was beaten by the barmaid from Heartbeat, who was Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree as Brenda Lee.
Of course, Monroe's special appeal as a singer was that she couldn't really sing. So it was the perfect choice then.

FRIGHT night: Sight of Lisa Minnelli on The Royal Variety Performance (Wednes-day, BBC1). Quick, nurse! Screens!



THIRSTY punter in the Queen Vic in Monday's EastEnders: 'I've never seen such a

shambles

Try watching it three times a week, mate.

## **RON'S WRONG**

HAT Ron Said (Monday, BBC1) demonstrated that denial is not just a river in Egypt. Looking back on the night in Monaco when he was heard applying the n-word to Marcel Desailly of Chelsaa and

applying the n-word to Marcel Desailly of Chelsea and France, Ron Atkinson described the fateful moment when he "apparently made the alleged remark".

Ron, Ron. There was no "apparently" or "alleged" about it. The programme

replayed the tape: "That is

replayed the tage: "That is what's known in some schools as a f\*\*\*ing lazy, thick n\*\*\*er." Ron was flown to the States so he could learn about black culture, and maybe understand the malevolent power of that six-letter word

stand the malevolent power of that six-letter word.

Back in England, Ron told a scary bunch of admirers that if he'd made the last word "frog", it wouldn't have mat-tered. Give me strength. Does he still not get it?

You did do wrong, Ron.





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LET-OFF: Christopher Chambers and his smashed-up Ferrari Maranello

ROAD safety campaigners were furious last night after the lawyer dubbed Mr Loophole got another wealthy client off a drink-drive rap. Legal-eagle Nick Freeman successfully defended millionaire Christopher Chambers despite a court being told his client was one-and-a-half times over the limit after a crash

over the limit after a crash. Company boss Chambers, 34, smashed his £180,000 Ferrari Maranello into a wall as he sped down a country lane to his £1million mansion.

£Imillion mansion.

The written-off car then spun into the path of a taxi, which hit the wreckage.

Chambers, from Burnley, Lanes, failed a breath test after the midnight crash.

But Mr Freeman, who focuses on the police's handling of cases, argued that the breathalyser had not been checked properly. Mike

■ EXCLUSIVE by TOM SAVAGE

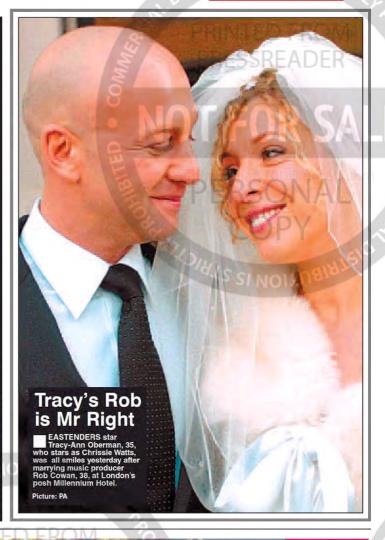
Jobbins, chairman of The Campaign Against Drink-Driving, said last night: "I find it both baffling and utterly appalling that something like this can be allowed to happen." In the latest case, Blackburn magistrates also ordered that Mr Chambers' undis-closed legal costs – estimated to run into thousands – be met by the taxpayer.

### Racing

Mr Freeman said: "My client has found the case very traumatic and is relieved to put these proceedings behind him."

Mr Freeman, 47, has also represented England skipper David Beckham, 29, and Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson. Speeding Fergie, 62, argued he was racing home because of a tummy bug. Beckham got off a speed rap saying he was being chased by a photographer.

LOOPHOLE: Nick Freeman





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